



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Single case of “Strangles” at Delaware Park detected

The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission Veterinarians were notified on May 25, 2005 about a confirmed case of “strangles” (*Streptococcus equi equi*) found in a thoroughbred. Within 30 minutes of notification, the horse in question was placed in an isolation barn. The barn where the horse had been stabled was placed under quarantine and those horses are currently undergoing testing. The stall that the affected horse was stabled in was cleaned and disinfected. State Veterinarian, Dr. Wesley Towers was consulted about the incident who recalled that prior to the opening of the stable area at Delaware Park, a review of quarantine procedures and the creation of an isolation barn were in place due to other jurisdictions having occurrences of the disease.

There have been other cases of “strangles” in racing jurisdictions, according to Commission Veterinarians. The Commission Veterinarians also described the ailment as an upper respiratory bacterial disease. The office further related that it is believed that this is an isolated case and all personnel have been notified and all precautions have been taken to control the disease.

A meeting was held with track management, commission, personnel, practicing veterinarians and horsemen to review procedures and further discuss safeguarding techniques to minimize exposure. “Quick action on the part of the Commission Veterinarians and Delaware Park management working in unison has this matter under control,” stated Commission chairman, Bernard J. Daney.

For more information, contact John Wayne, Executive Director of the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission.

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